

REMARKS

The Applicant's Representative wishes to thank the Examiner for the time and consideration shown during the interview on February 11, 2003. During the interview the Examiner and the Applicant's Representative discussed independent claims 1, 15, 21 and U.S Patent No. 4,721,275 to Benton and U.S. Patent No. 2,941,329 to Apparius. The discussion focused upon the limitations set forth in amended claims 1, 15 and 21. The Examiner indicated that the proposed amendments seemed to patentably distinguish from the art in the file. However, the Examiner needed to update the search and confer with her Supervisor before being able to complete the Examination. Applicant's Representative also provided a series of Declarations for consideration by the Examiner. The Examiner indicated that the amended claims 1, 15 and 21 seemed to patentably distinguish from the art in the file without resort to the objective indicia of non-obviousness set forth in the Declarations.

Entry of the Preliminary Amendment canceling claims 2, 3, 13, 14, 16, 23-25 and amending claims 1, 4-7, 15, and 21-22 is respectfully requested. Further, new claims 26-39 have been added to further define the present invention. Further Examination and issuance of an early Notice of Allowability is respectfully requested. The undersigned would welcome a telephone call from the Examiner to address any remaining issues in the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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